

Unapproved
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 20, 2009

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, July 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Console, Forrest, Hemmann, Kotkin, Roberts, Walsh, Deputy Mayor Montinieri, and Chairperson Adil.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager; Peter Gillespie, Town Planner; Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation; and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, presented the following report:

WELCOME!

- Humphrey's Restaurant – 1151 Silas Deane Highway
- Johnny Tomato's 620B Silas Deane Highway- Former Mangia Pizza
- Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce – 200 Main Street – Keeney Center

A ribbon cutting is scheduled for July 15 at 5:30 pm to celebrate the relocation of the Chamber's office.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- A building permit application has been filed that would permit Sterling Jewelers to expand into the recently available space adjacent to their store at 965 Silas Deane Highway.
- A building permit has been filed for an office buildout for the Visiting Nurses Association at 370 Silas Deane Highway.

DEVELOPER/PROPERTY OWNER/REALTOR CONTACT

- Working with prospective property owner for purchase of 322 Silas Deane Highway and conversion to a financial services office. An application for façade funds has been approved by the EDIC.
- A permit has been issued for a wine shop – SOMA Wines in the Goff Brook Shops.
- A façade application has been filed for exterior improvements to the Subway Building at 770 Silas Deane Highway.

OTHER NEWS AND INITIATIVES

Economic Development and Improvement Commission

- The Commission is planning for the initiation of a Shop Wethersfield program and will soon be compiling information for the development of an electronic business directory. The Commission will be sending out a mailing to all local businesses to solicit input into this new program.
- The Commission is working with the Chamber of Commerce on the creation of a more comprehensive business directory and Town Guide. An RFP will be issued in the near future for the project.

Tourism/ Preserve America

- During June we interviewed the 4 finalist for the design portion of our wayfinding signage RFP. A recommendation has been forwarded to the Council for selection.
- On June 18 the Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers hosted a travel writer from Journeys Magazine for a future article in that publication.
- On July 8 the Town welcomed a travel reporter from Crossroads Magazine for a day trip promotion spot that will air.
- Old Wethersfield was designated as a “Best Old House Neighborhood” by the editors of This Old House Magazine.

Noteworthy

- A draft of a new ordinance that would authorize our Land Use Commissions to charge additional Land Use Fees will be submitted to Council for consideration this month.
- Working on RFP for consultant to update 2000 Plan of Conservation and Development.
- Through a grant from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation the Town recently completed a project to compile a data base of all properties located in the historic District for use by residents, property owners and the Commission. The web site “Wethersfield Historic Properties Database” is located at www.whdc.enterity.net
- In response to the June 26 storm damage staff sent out a FEMA damage report form to all businesses in Town, we received 87 responses, 40 reported property damage, 26 with inventory damage and 59 with lost income. In total these businesses reported damage that totaled nearly \$750,000.00.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the Visiting Nurses Association was already in Town.

Peter Gillespie said the VNA is building at 370 Silas Deane Highway. He did know if they are in Town now but would check.

Councilor Cascio said that the VNA is in the building next to his on the Silas Deane Highway. They are expanding their offices in Town.

PROCLAMATION

Chairperson Adil presented Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, with a Proclamation for her six years of service to the Town.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, thanked the Town Council for the Proclamation. She said that it has been a quick six years in Town. She said that staff and the Town Council have gotten a lot done in her time here. She said that it has been a treat working with the staff and citizenry.

The Town Council presented the Town Manager with flowers, a gift card, and a Wethersfield blanket.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Town Manager.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, took attendance.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO TAKE OFF THE TABLE ITEM B.2.A. – POLICE GRANT FUNDS”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

HEARINGS

ORDINANCE – ADDITIONAL LAND USE APPLICATION FEES

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this ordinance will establish fees that the Town can charge back to developers for work that the Town can't perform internally.

No one else wished to speak for or against the Ordinance. Chairperson Adil declared the hearing closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, said his taxes are up 9 ½ percent and he is paying more for services. He said that he is surprised that no one cares for the residents of Morrison Avenue. There are no stop signs on the street and no snowshelf along the curb. He has gotten no response to his questions to the Town Attorney about the street not meeting Federal standards.

Tom Wise, 77 Randy Lane, stated that he received a letter from the Town requesting that he remove a fence installed along Griswold Pond. It has been up for approximately fourteen years to stop the fifty or so geese from coming into his yard. He would like Council to allow the fence to remain.

Tom Quinn, 63 Randy Lane, said that he has lived on Randy Lane since 1985. The property abuts Griswold Pond. The fence does not impede anyone wanting to walk along the pond. His neighbor Mrs. Hitnick asked that he speak on behalf of her as well.

James Sheehy, 87 Randy Lane, said that this is his first time in the new Town Council Chambers and the renovation was worth the money. He said that he has had a problem with geese in his yard and the small fence works well at keeping the geese away. He asked that the Town Council allow the residents to keep their fences.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, said that the tornado in Wethersfield caused a lot of problems but he felt good to be in Town. Citizens stepped forward and Town staff did an

excellent job and should be publicly complemented. He said that the Mayor spoke recently and said that when you do something wrong you should admit it and make a change. Rules aren't always sacred. He said that there is a new Town Manager starting soon and an election in November. He hopes the Town Council will allow the public to speak at the end of the Town Council meetings again. He suggests that the Town Council recognize the citizenry and that they have information to share with the Town Council. He wishes the Town Manager well and hopes that she will tell the new Town Manager that there is still work to be done on the Cloverdale Circle Pond.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said that since the budget was adopted he has reviewed the numbers of the Strategic School Profiles for Special Education. Wethersfield has one of the highest costs in the Greater Hartford area. Hartford has the highest cost. It is only \$571 more than Wethersfield per child. The Town can't keep increasing the costs. The revenue is not going to continue to come in. Costs need to be reduced. He wished the Town Manager good luck.

Richard Garry, 10 Morrison Avenue, said that the Town did a great job with the cleanup of the debris caused by the storm. Speaking on behalf of the Village Improvement Association, he said that the loss of trees was devastating to the Town. It makes tree planting more important than ever. He handed out a map of the Broad Street Green trees. He said that the Village Improvement Association printed the map years ago and has run out of them and doesn't want to print them again until trees are replaced. He hopes that the Town will do everything in its power to replant trees that were lost during the storm. He said that it is especially important to replant the Broad Street Green as it is an arboretum. There is an amazing variety of species and the size of some of the trees is great. The trees need to be replaced in kind. He thanked the Town Council for giving matching funds for the Arbor Day plantings in April.

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

REPORTS

Councilor Walsh said that the 375th Anniversary Committee has a flier out and a link on the website. There will be a fireworks display at Cove Park on August 22nd with a concert before it. The Anniversary Parade is scheduled for September 27th.

Councilor Kotkin said that the Budget and Finance Committee met earlier this evening and reviewed the end of fiscal year report. There was an enormous amount of spending associated with the tornado and it has made a real dent in the fund balance. The Town needed to fill the gap and pay its expenditures before the insurance company sent checks. Before the storm, the Townside expenses were under by about \$700,000. The Budget and Finance Committee is anticipating money will be given back by the Board of Education and Library Board. The funds from the Board of Education will be placed in a health reserve account. The revenues were down for the year because the collection rate was not as high as expected and there were fewer property

transfers. Also at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting the Committee discussed the proposal for a software package for the Tax Collector and Assessor's offices. At this time, the Committee is not endorsing the purchase but will monitor the situation closely for updates and improvements to the MUNIS system.

Councilor Forrest said that the Energy Committee met and is working on the completion of the first draft of the energy plan for September when it will be presented to the Town Council and Board of Education. He said that the Conservation Commission met and is working on maintenance plans for the Town parks. The Commission is also discussing properties contiguous to the Wintergreen Woods. He said that the Shade Tree Commission and Building Department are talking about tree replacement, taking into account the tornado damage. The Commission is looking for funding sources for the comprehensive replacement of the trees.

Councilor Hemmann said that the Human Rights and Relations Committee met and is working with the schools for programs.

Councilor Roberts said that the Shared Services Committee met and received an update on the summer school project work from the Superintendent of Schools. The Committee also discussed the health care reserve account and traffic issues on Church Place. She said that the Public Safety Committee met and received an update on the Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance Association and issue concerning the use of garages for towing by the Police Department. Both issues are being reviewed.

COMMENTS

Councilor Forrest responded to Gus Colantonio's comments that the Town Council doesn't care about the residents on Morrison Avenue by saying that the Infrastructure Committee has worked for over a year with residents and toured the street. The Committee continues to work towards addressing some of the complaints. He thanked the Town Manager for her service to the Town stating that she was a dedicated worker and will be missed.

Councilor Console commented on a memo from the Town Manager concerning the bid process by saying that he is concerned that Town Council members are speaking with bidders. The Town Council must follow the rules and allow bidders to go through the process. He asked for a full report into the incident including what bid was involved. He also asked for an update on the status of the Wilkus Property.

Councilor Walsh thanked the Town Manager and Director of Public Works for their efforts in receiving the Sidewalk Replacement Award from CIRMA. He echoed Councilor Forrest's comments and thanked the Town Manager for all of her hard work on behalf of the Town.

Councilor Roberts thanked the Town Manager and said that she appreciated her hard work and said that her legacy will be how responsive she was to the citizenry.

Councilor Cascio said that Bonnie Therrien was able to bring the Town through the storm and put it on the right track for the future. He wished her all the best.

Councilor Kotkin thanked the Town Manager for improving the Town and Town Council.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that residents approached him wanting to thank Town staff for the cleanup of the community after the tornado. He said that the response was incredible and it was amazing to see such a positive response to such a negative event. He said that he spoke to Bonnie Therrien privately. The Town is blessed to have had a true professional. He thanked her for her work.

Chairperson Adil thanked the Town Manager for her help when he started as Mayor. She was always so responsive to the citizens of Town and he valued her guidance. He said that the staff showed a great deal of professionalism during the storm. Other communities also provided assistance to the Town. He thanked Dick Fippinger for all of the training he gave that also helped during this storm. The emergency plans worked as they were supposed to. In regard to the tree replacement issue, the Shade Tree Commission will be the key player in the replacement of the trees. He highlighted the following events:

- The National Night Out event will be held on August 4, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Millwoods Park.
- The Annual Stand Down 2009 will be held at the Connecticut Veterans Home in Rocky Hill from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on September 18th.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Cascio moved **“TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JASON BOOKER FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD”** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO APPOINT KEITH SAUNDERS TO THE CITIZENS ENERGY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM FROM 7-20-09 TO 6-30-12, JOHN J. O’LEARY TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION FOR A TERM FROM 7-20-09 TO 6-30-11, AND TO CORRECT THE TERM OF DIANNE L. DOOT ON THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT FOR A TERM FROM 7-20-09 TO 6-30-12”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

**Words in italics
Have been changed**

Councilor Cascio moved **“TO APPOINT CARMELO AMODDIO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD AS AN ALTERNATE FOR THE TERM FROM 7-20-09 TO 6-30-12”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE FOR COMPLEX LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 3, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this will allow the Town to seek outside assistance, if necessary, with bigger developments and establish a fee for those services. Other towns do this. Town staff will come back to Council for the approval of the actual fees once they are set.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO TRANSFER \$40,795.71 FROM CONTINGENCY [1910-59250] TO THE POLICE ESCROW FUND [2066-49001] AND TO TRANSFER \$19,739.75 FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE POLICE GRANTS FUND [2205-49001]”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Budget and Finance Committee met earlier and reviewed the problem with the Police escrow funds. She said that there has been a discrepancy in the accounts since the late 1990's. The recommendation is to take money from last year's contingency account and balance out the two accounts. This will rectify the problem and the funds will be kept separate moving forward.

Councilor Kotkin said that this issue came before the full Town Council in March and it was sent to committee for a more thorough review. Town staff has poured through the old spreadsheets. Some of the information was not in any of the financial system. These accounts do not appear to be slush funds or misallocated monies, but rather weak accounting practices between the various grants. The Town can't continue to have dangling, unbalanced accounts. The funds to correct the problems are available in last year's contingency account.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that he is not clear on what is being proposed. He asked if funding for grants had been provided to the Police to allow spending through the grants and that money can't be traced properly.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that in the mid 1990's funds appear to have been comingled with Federal *asset forfeiture* funds. The accounting was done manually so the funds

can't be traced through any financial software. The accounts should have balanced out but didn't.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that the Town is taking actual money from the Contingency account for these escrow accounts. He asked who is getting that money.

Councilor Kotkin said that there is no actual money leaving the Town. Grant money was received and spent already but the accounts didn't balance out. This motion is necessary to clean up the mess from the previous administration. It is not a good answer but some controls were not followed back in the 1990's.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said the transfer stays within the Town but identifies a grant account where unaccounted for funds were drawn from the Town budget but not properly accounted for.

Councilor Kotkin said that there are two accounts with deficits just sitting on the books.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that this is a paper transfer to clean up the improper accounting practices.

Councilor Kotkin said that the records were not kept properly so the funds couldn't be traced.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri asked if the Budget and Finance Committee came to the conclusion that it was an accounting issue and not an inappropriate use of the funds.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Committee discussed this and feels that it is an accounting issue.

Councilor Kotkin said that there is no evidence of a misuse of funds but rather a case of the Finance Department allowing spreadsheets to be kept manually instead of on the financial system. If the Town has a Federal audit it doesn't want to have these deficits with no action being taken by the Town Council to try to rectify the problem.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that an effort has been made. He trusts the Budget and Finance Committee but this is an account cleanup. Someone may feel that this is not an appropriate use of funds.

Councilor Kotkin said that the accounts were properly accounted for over the past 6 or 8 years. This problem goes back longer than that. The auditor has been working with the Town on a way to solve this problem.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that it is comforting to hear that the auditors are working with the Town.

Councilor Hemmann asked why this issue didn't come up before March of this year.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the auditors don't look at every line item in the budget. The Finance Department has been looking at this issue for years and has been trying to trace the money. This is the best solution for the problem.

Councilor Console asked if all manual accounting is gone.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that there is a gap in the records. Her staff went through the Finance Department records and the Police Department records. She said that the Town used Admins financial system and those numbers were carried forward to the new system. Some numbers can be traced back. The revenue that was taken in and the expenses that were paid out did not come from the same accounts in some cases. Her staff reconciled as much as it could with the gap in the records.

Councilor Console said that this could be an elaborate scheme where someone walked away with money.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that in her opinion, with the records that the Town does have, she does not feel that is what happened.

Councilor Walsh said that during that period of time people had a lot of leeway on how to maintain the financial records. They could be kept manually or entered into a computer system. He asked if that could happen now.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said no. All records must be entered into the system. There are procedures in place.

Councilor Forrest asked if the \$60,000 was coming out of this year's contingency.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that it was coming out of the 2008-2009 contingency account. It will be a retroactive budget transfer.

Councilor Forrest asked, if when reconciling, is this a \$60,000 deficit?

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that the account that the funds are being transferred into is short \$60,000. The cash is not leaving the Town; it is being put into another account.

A discussion ensued concerning the bank statements versus the Town's financial statements.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the bank is only interested in the bottom line and does

not know or care which internal accounts monies are in.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that the Town is overstating fund accounts to make the deficit zero. The Town is now shifting the funds to bring the funds into balance.

Councilor Kotkin said that the money came in and it was put into a miscellaneous revenue account and presented the Town with a surplus. It is not like the Town lost the money and then found it. The money was just not tracked properly.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that these accounts were discussed a few years ago. This discussion was appropriate for the public to understand the issue. This is a reconciliation of account and is not money disappearing.

Councilor Forrest said that he is more comfortable with this motion after this discussion.

Chairperson Adil said that this was a good discussion and will finally clear up the issue.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$80,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS PER THE BUDGET TRANSFER FORM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$25,000 FROM THE UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO ACCOUNT 1935-52260 TO APPROPRIATE THE INSURANCE FUNDS THAT THE TOWN HAS RECEIVED”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that insurance checks are coming in to pay for the expenses but the Town needs to appropriate money to the correct accounts.

Chairperson Adil asked how much money is in last year's Contingency account.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there was \$162,500 in it. With the transfers tonight of \$80,000 and \$60,000, there is about \$23,000 left in last year's contingency account.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri asked if there were any bills outstanding from last year and how much of the cost of the storm clean up the Town will have to pay for.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that these she doesn't expect any more bills from last year. She said that the Town has a \$5,000 general deductible and \$10,000 tree replacement deductible. She said \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 will be spent when all is said and done. She said that she hopes to get back 85 percent of the expenses.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the Town will receive any FEMA or Federal money.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that if FEMA money was granted it would be to fill the gap that insurance doesn't pay. It is a 75/25 split with the Town. FEMA has not made any commitment to the Town. FEMA is looking at the storm Statewide to determine if the total bills equal \$4,400,000.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri asked about individual expense reimbursement.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the numbers don't look good for individual reimbursement. Everyone had insurance and FEMA money would just fill the gap but there is a very high threshold. She said that what may happen is that homeowners can apply for a very low interest loan for funds to repair homes.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **"TO REMOVE THE TRANSFER OF \$420 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT 1910-59250 TO THE CLEAN ENERGY ACCOUNT 4100-52220-50100 FOR THE UPGRADE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER SOLAS PANEL FROM THE AGENDA"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Clean Energy Committee is able to secure the funding so this transfer does not need to be made.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **"TO TRANSFER \$12,900 FROM CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT 1910-59250 TO THE PHYSICAL SERVICES ACCOUNT 1457154-53335 FOR MOSQUITO SPRAYING"** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there is money in the budget for a larvacide but not for mosquito spraying. There have been many requests from residents for the spraying. With all of the heavy rains it is necessary. \$12,900 will get the Town through the year.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri asked what is in this year's contingency fund.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there is \$23,000 in last year's account and \$340,000 in this year's account.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that the money spent from this year's contingency was money well spent on the storm clean up. He strongly supports this motion.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO REFER THE REQUEST TO ERECT A FENCE ON TOWN PROPERTY TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A REVIEW AND REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8-24 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that a neighbor on Randy Lane has made a complaint about other neighbors that have fences along Griswold Pond. He said it is obstructing the neighbors' view of the pond. Town staff went out and didn't see anything blocking the view of the pond or blocking access to the pond. However, fences are not permitted on Town property without the permission of the Town. Letters were sent to property owners asking that the fences be removed or that the homeowners contact the Town Manager and request permission to keep the fences. By State law, this item has to go the Planning and Zoning Commission for a review.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said residents gave the Town Council a good history of this issue tonight. It appears that there is a growing animosity between neighbors on Randy Lane. The Town needs to address that existing fences are there and will remain there while the Planning and Zoning Commission reviews the issue and it is brought back to the Town Council for a final decision. He said that these fences have been in place for many years and he is disturbed by the amount of animosity between neighbors. He said that he hopes the Town can help diffuse some of the problems and resolve this. Residents should go back home, catch their breath and get some perspective and remember everyone is a neighbor. He said that it looks like staff may have made some comments without the full facts and it may have exasperated the problem.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that she spoke with the neighbor who filed the complaint and he knows that the fences will stay up during the time it takes to make a decision.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that he would be happier with a letter being sent out.

Councilor Forrest asked if any other committee should look at this issue.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that she doesn't believe so.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE SALE OF PARCEL 279-006, FEARFUL SWAMP, TO THE WETHERSFIELD GAME CLUB FOR \$1 PLUS ATTORNEY FEES AND THAT A CONSERVATION EASEMENT BE PLACED ON THE PROPERTY ”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this was discussed at a previous meeting and was sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a review. The Commission returned a favorable response.

Chairperson Adil said that he supports this motion. The Wethersfield Game Club does a good job with its property.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO BEGIN THE PERMIT AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE NEW DOCKS AND BOAT RAMP AT COVE PARK AND TO BEGIN IDENTIFYING FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS”** seconded by Councilor Walsh.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this item was also referred to the Planning and Commission for a review. The Director of Park and Recreation will be able to begin to look for funding sources.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE SIX DOLLAR PER TON SUBSIDY FROM CRRA FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DELIVERED IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR”** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is a real surprise. She said that CRRA will use some of its debt service stabilization funds to pay \$6 per ton per member to the Town to use towards this fiscal year or next fiscal year. She said that she believes the Town should take the money this year while it is available. It will save about \$72,000 in tonnage cost.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that CRRA is offering the money either this year or next to help towns with bookkeeping if budgets have already been set.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town can take the money in this year and not spend all of the money that was previously allocated in the Town budget.

BIDS

Councilor Walsh moved **“TO AWARD A CONTRACT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000 TO THE NATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE PAINTING OF THE DEMING STANDISH HOUSE AND THE REPLACEMENT OF TRIM BOARD, CORNICES AND CLAPBOARDS, AS NEEDED”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this contract is to paint the exterior of the Deming Standish House. In the past, 2 sides have been painted one year and 2 sides the next. The work has been done by Town staff. This year the entire house will be painted a different color and the work was sent out to bid. \$25,000 was allocated for painting and another \$5,000 for the replacement of any rot. Two bids were received. The bid is not to exceed \$30,000.

Councilor Hemmann asked if anyone looked into why one bid was for \$175,000.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that the high bid was checked. The high bid had built in a lot of cushion for unknown factors that could come up in the painting process.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri asked when it was painted last.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that 2 sides were painted a couple of years ago.

Councilor Walsh said that when this issue was discussed in the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee meeting \$30,000 was allocated, \$15,000 last year and \$15,000 this year. He said that he will check to see if a colonial color was being used for the paint.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO DUMP TRUCKS TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT VENDOR, NUTMEG INTERNATIONAL TRUCK; TO AWARD A BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF A PAY LOADER TO W.I. CLARK AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A FINANCING/LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE TRUCKS AND PAY LOADER WITH MUNICIPAL SERVICES GROUP”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the funds are in this year’s budget for these items. The bids are within the budget price. This purchase will finish off the fleet.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the Town appropriated \$150,000 for each item.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that \$150,000 was allocated for the payloader and \$220,000 for the dump trucks. \$170,000 is in this year’s budget to pay for the first lease payment.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this bid is under budget.

Councilor Kotkin asked how the market was for leasing.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that they are searching for the best rate with a good provider.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Walsh moved **“TO AWARD A CONTRACT NOT TO EXCEED \$19,890 TO DESIGN: CLARK FOR THE FINAL DESIGN WORK FOR THE WAY FINDING SIGNAGE PROGRAM AS DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED SCOPE OF SERVICES ”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that Preserve America and Wayfaring Committee recommended this bidder.

Councilor Walsh said that Design Clark showed samples from other communities.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that the firm is based in Tennessee and has worked in New England, Tennessee, Texas, and with several colleges. They have national experience. They are more than qualified.

Councilor Walsh said that he was impressed with the presentation.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that the price, experience, and philosophy best fit the Town.

Chairperson Adil asked what the timeline would be for the signs.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that the company is ready to start working. There is a timeline in the proposal. He said that there is only so much money in the bid so some existing signs will stay in place for future budget years. The firm will prioritize which signs to replace first.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO REJECT ALL ELECTRICITY PROPOSALS FROM THE TOWN’S RFP AND TO AWARD THE BID FOR ELECTRICITY TO CONSTELLATION NEW ENERGY POWER FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2010 AT THE ALL INCLUSIVE RATE OF \$.10020 PER KWH”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Energy Committee prepared the RFP for energy suppliers. CRCOG was doing a reverse auction as a separate entity. The reverse auction worked out well for the Town. 13 percent of the energy will be clean energy.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri asked if there was a savings with this purchase.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said she will put the information in the next Management report.

Councilor Forrest said that this award will provide more than 80 percent more renewable energy than the State requires over a 3 year period. The Town is receiving a better rate than going through the RFP process and is using more “green” energy. It is a win win situation.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

MINUTES

Councilor Cascio moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2009 AS AMENDED”** seconded by Councilor Walsh.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilors Console and Forrest abstained. The motion passed 7-0-2.

Councilor Cascio moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Walsh.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Cascio.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilors Hemmann and Roberts abstained. The motion passed 7-0-2.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilors Cascio, Walsh, and Deputy Mayor Montinieri abstained. The motion passed 6-0-3.

Councilor Walsh moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 29, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Cascio and Hemmann and Deputy Mayor Montinieri abstained. The motion passed 6-0-3.

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Walsh.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Cascio and Console abstained. The motion passed 7-0-2.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, said that the Town Council meetings will be aired daily at 9:00 a.m. They will not be televised in the evenings for 2 weeks while the Town waits for a piece of equipment that allows the tape to be automatically played. The tapes will be manually played during the day by Town staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:20 p.m., Councilor Hemmann moved **“TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION – NEXTEL REBANDING, HEART AND HYPERTENSION CLAIM, AND PERSONNEL MATTERS–TOWN MANAGER TRANSITIONS, AND REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS”** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0. Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, was present for the union negotiations only. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session. At 9:38 p.m., Councilor Forrest left executive session.

At 9:50 p.m., Councilor Console moved **“TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION”** seconded by Councilor Roberts. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Cascio move **“TO GIVE UP TO 20 HOURS TO THE NEW MANAGER FOR A TRANSITION PERIOD WITH BONNIE THERRIEN AT THE HOURLY RATE OF \$70 PAID TO MS. THERRIEN”** seconded by Councilor Walsh.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:52 p.m., Councilor Hemmann moved **“TO ADJOURN THE MEETING”** seconded by Councilor Roberts. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk